



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE

Patrick L. Meehan, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, today announced the filing of a superseding indictment¹ against Marcel Harper, a/k/a "Mike Harper, a/k/a "Miz," Ronnie Muir, a/k/a "Manny," a/k/a "Man," a/k/a "Strong," Jeryle Sowell, a/k/a "G," a/k/a "Geez," Christopher Booker, a/k/a "Book," a/k/a "Black," and Henry Myers, charging them with conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States, that is, armed bank robbery. The indictment charges that the named defendants were members of a conspiracy that conspired to rob the Artisans Bank, at 4901 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington, Delaware on April 14, 2004, the Citizens Bank, 5001 Edgmont Avenue, Brookhaven, Pennsylvania on June 15, 2004, and the M & T Bank, 489 Bristol Pike, Andalusia, Pennsylvania on September 27, 2004, of money by use of force, threats of force and violence, and the use of handguns. Muir and Sowell are further charged with three counts of armed bank robbery and three counts of use of a firearm in furtherance of the commission of a crime of violence, and aiding and abetting the commission of those offenses, in connection with the three armed bank robberies noted above. Harper is also charged with two counts of armed bank robbery and two counts of use of a firearm in furtherance of the commission of a crime of violence, and aiding and abetting the commission of those offenses, in connection with the Artisans Bank and Citizens Bank robberies noted above. Booker is further charged with one count of armed bank robbery and one count of use of a firearm in furtherance of the commission of a crime of violence, and aiding and abetting the commission of those offenses, in connection with the armed bank robbery of the Citizens Bank in Brookhaven, Pennsylvania.

The indictment alleges that the robbers committed the three armed bank robberies with at least two of the named defendants, including Ronnie Muir, Jeryle Sowell and Christopher Booker, and another co-conspirator, Burnie Tindale, who is charged elsewhere. The indictment charges that the perpetrators carried and brandished firearms, wore hats, gloves and face coverings, and gained admission to the banks shortly after they opened for daily business to commit the robberies; that either one of the named perpetrators or another robber charged elsewhere took control of the banks at gunpoint, corralled bank employees and customers into either bank vault areas or inner bank offices, and gained entry to the vault area from bank personnel with access keys. It is charged that one of the perpetrators, on occasion Ronnie Muir, vaulted the teller counter to gain access to cash in teller drawers, while other perpetrators

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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controlled the main lobby of the banks. The indictment states that the perpetrators then forced employees at gunpoint to open the banks' vaults in order to gain access to substantial sums of cash. According to the indictment, the perpetrators, including Muir, Sowell and Booker, gathered cash from inside the bank vaults and from teller drawers, and put the money in plastic bags, which on occasion were taken from bank trash receptacles.

The indictment states that the perpetrators, including Muir, Sowell and Booker forced bank employees and customers to go into either the vault area or bank offices, and restrained them inside those locations, and then escaped. The indictment states that the robbers escaped from at least two of the banks in stolen getaway vehicles which were subsequently abandoned, and used "switch" vehicles parked at apartment complex locations located less than one mile from each of the banks to complete their escape.

The indictment states that the banks suffered losses in the robberies as follows:

Artisans Bank
4901 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, Delaware
Loss – \$46,114

Citizens Bank
5001 Edgmont Avenue
Brookhaven, Pennsylvania
Loss – \$52,935

M & T Bank
489 Bristol Pike
Andalusia, Pennsylvania
Loss – \$76,254

If convicted of the offenses charged, the defendants face the following maximum penalties:

RONNIE MUIR

Life imprisonment, including an aggregate mandatory minimum term of 57 years imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, a fine of \$1,750,000 and a special assessment of \$700.

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JERYLE SOWELL

Life imprisonment, including an aggregate mandatory minimum term of 57 years imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, a fine of \$1,750,000 and a special assessment of \$700. The indictment also seeks criminal forfeiture of firearms and ammunition used in the charged offenses.

MARCEL HARPER

Life imprisonment, including an aggregate mandatory minimum term of 32 years imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, a fine of \$1,250,000 and a special assessment of \$500.

CHRISTOPHER BOOKER

Life imprisonment, including a mandatory minimum term of 7 years imprisonment, 5 years supervised release, a fine of \$750,000 and a special assessment of \$300.

HENRY MYERS

5 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 and a special assessment of \$100.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Philadelphia Division, Violent Crimes Task Force, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Police Department, Major Crimes Section, Delaware State Police Troop 2, Bensalem Police Department, Darby Borough Police Department and the Brookhaven Police Department.

The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. Labrum, III

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NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Marcel Harper	N. 54thStreet Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	DOB 7/2/73, Age 32
Ronnie Muir	Cherry Street Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania	DOB 9/25/73, age 32
Jeryle Sowell	N. 55 th Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	DOB 7/28/72, age 33
Christopher Booker	S. Conestoga Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	DOB 2/24/81, age 23
Henry Myers	Columbia Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	DOB 11/2/78, age 27

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